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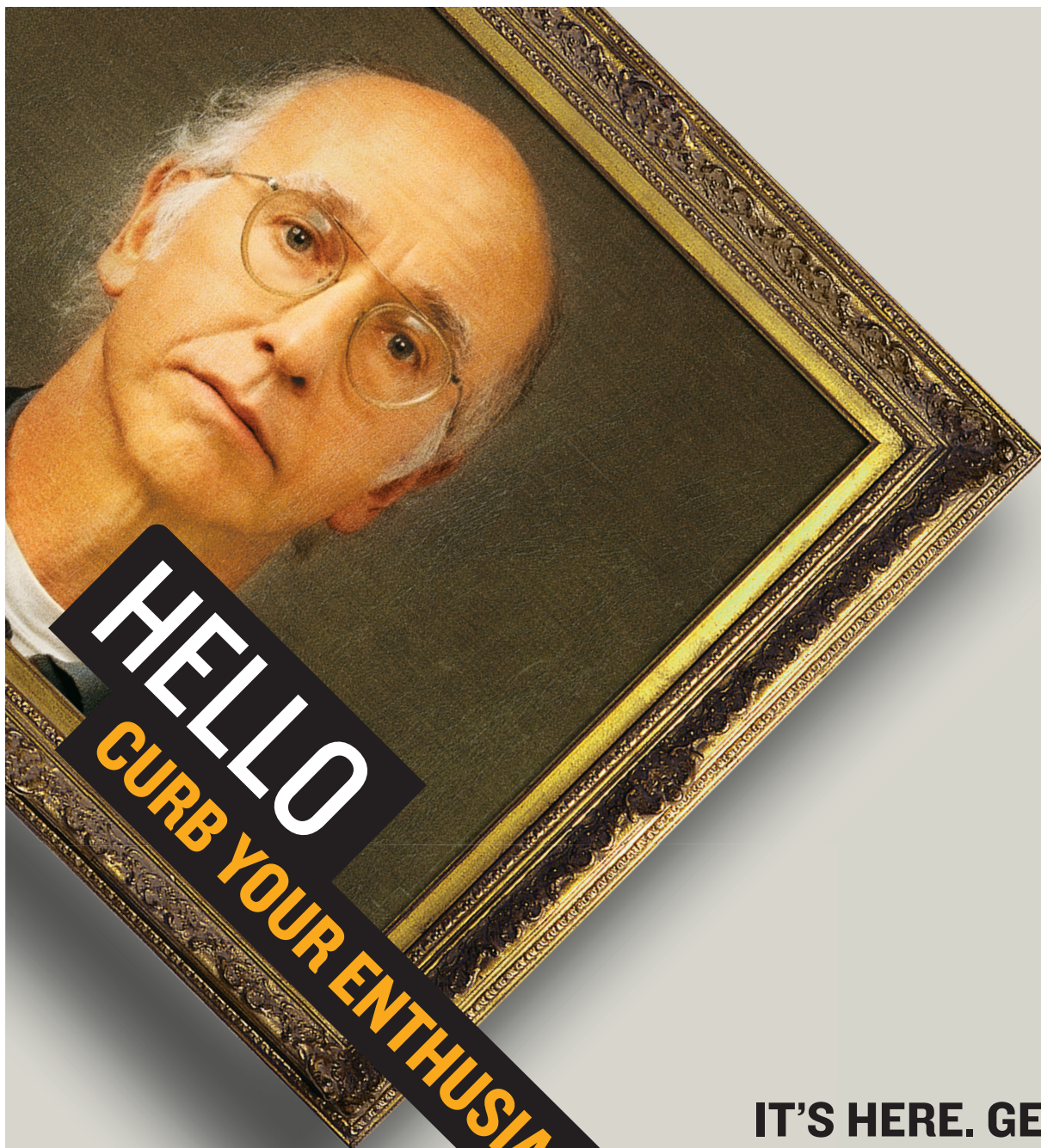
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**Travel** pg 9

**Spooky places around the world**



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**Canada** pg 5



**PM calls meeting over crisis**

Circulation forces Frank mag to fold

**MEDIA** Frank magazine — the satirical scandal sheet that for nearly two decades savaged the reputations of some of Canada's most powerful politicians, business leaders, celebrities and media figures — has exited with more of a whimper than a bang.

The money-losing, Ottawa-based national publication announced yesterday that it is ceasing production of both its newsstand and online editions.

"There was a time in the early '90s when we really had the field to ourselves, in the sense that we were doing stories that were the antidote to the mainstream media," publisher Michael Bate said. "In a way, we were the Internet. And then along came the Internet. More and more publications started doing what we were doing. And we couldn't compete."

In the end, Frank had a combined subscription base of 5,000 readers for its online and print edition, compared to a peak circulation of 20,000.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Ottawa** pg 3

**Carleton gets millions**

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# 'Poor' housing city norm



Algonquin College social work student Matthew Burley tours a recently vacated and damaged community housing unit on DuMaurier Avenue yesterday. The property manager estimated that it could cost up to \$15,000 to get the unit in shape for the next tenants.

Ottawa's social housing stock needs \$332M for urgent repairs

**TIM WIECLAWSKI**  
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**Ottawa's rundown social housing units need a \$332-million cash infusion over five years just to upgrade them from "poor" to "fair" condition, according to a report by the city's social housing provider.**

Ottawa Community Housing yesterday revealed results of a 30-month study into the condition of its nearly 15,000-unit housing stock that indicates properties in "good" condition are the exception rather than the rule here.

Chief executive Jo-Anne Poirier said OCH would need \$66 million per year until 2013 just to clear its backlog of needed repairs, and then up to \$30 million annually after that for upkeep.

"We have to look at more preventative maintenance to extend the life of our facilities so that once we have this backlog fixed up, we don't get into the same situation," said Poirier.

The report's figures do not include construction of new units or the future discovery of more problems, such as asbestos and mould, during repairs.

Denis Chartrand, chair of Building Condition Assessment for OCH, said the report graded each of the 14,783 OCH homes in 162 city communities accord-

**Many left waiting**

Despite having the second largest provider of social housing in the province, thousands of Ottawa families remain on the waiting list for a place to live, forcing many to seek rooms in the city's shelters. The Community Foundation of Ottawa outlined the crisis facing shelters in the capital this month, indicating more than 5,000 women were turned away last year due to lack of space.

CTVOTTAWA.CA

ing to an index that compares the cost of repairing a unit to its value.

Poirier said a "good" Facility Condition Index is below five per cent, while "poor" is more than 10 per cent. The average grade was 13.3.

One low-rise unit had an FCI of 93 per cent, meaning that repairing it would cost about the same as tearing it down and rebuilding.

Coun. Diane Holmes, chair of the OCH board of directors, said senior levels of government need to assist the city with a problem that's growing out of control.

"It's got to come from the senior levels of government mainly. They are the ones with the income-tax base. So we are looking for them to come back to the kind of funding we used to have," she said.

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**A straight-A ace**

A graduate of Bell High School has been honoured as the top student in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board after graduating with a 99.5 per cent average last year. Yuan Chung emerged as the winner after immigrating to Canada just four years ago. He now attends the University of Ottawa and has ambitions to become a doctor. **CTVOTTAWA.CA**

**3**

# Ottawa

## 'Tis the season

Now that snow is set to cover city streets, OC Transpo is winding down its Rack and Roll program. Starting Friday, bike racks will start coming off buses used for routes 2, 85, 95, 96, 97, 118 and 145. The removal of all racks will take several days. OC Transpo estimates that the 307 racks are used 400 times per day. **CITY OF OTTAWA**

# Carleton gifted millions

Donation will be used for Humanities dep't scholarships

**TRACEY TONG**  
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**A Madoc couple with no prior connection to Carleton University has made one of the largest donations in the history of the institution to its College of the Humanities.**

Carleton officials announced yesterday that Richard and Pamela Joho have made "a multi-million-dollar" donation — the bulk of their lifetime savings — to create full scholarships for students studying in the program.

While the total value of the gift was not released, the university confirmed it is the largest in the humanities department's history and it could be one of the

largest for Carleton after an \$8-million lifetime donation made by Montreal architect and developer, David Azrieli.

Long-term, the gift will be enough to support all humanities program students who have financial need,

said Serge Arpin, Chief Advancement Officer at Carleton University.

In the 1990s, the Johos began looking for a university to bequeath their estate.

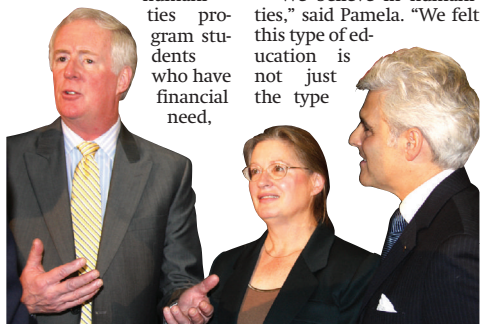
"We believe in humanities," said Pamela. "We felt this type of education is not just the type

to lead you to a career. It teaches you how to reason, how to think, how to appreciate and how to question."

The couple looked at "many universities in the U.S. and Canada" before finding Carleton through a Google search. The couple, who call themselves "middle class," said they wanted to alleviate students' worries about money.

"In my view, the most precious aspect lies in the supreme vote of confidence in the humanities," said Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean John Osborne.

While the inaugural Richard and Pamela Joho Scholarship will be awarded in 2010, the Johos are also bequeathing their personal collection of books and papers to the university.



Donor Richard Joho, left, speaks at Carleton University yesterday as his wife, fellow donor Pamela Joho and Carleton board of governor chair Jacques Shore look on.



Transit chair Alex Cullen displays one of the city's new diesel-electric hybrid buses yesterday.

## No bad batteries to foil city's rollout of new hybrid buses

**TIM WIECLAWSKI**  
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Ottawa's transit chief is confident the city's new hybrid buses won't travel the same route as those in Toronto, where wonky batteries have caused problems recently.

While the city's new Orion VII diesel-electric hybrids are manufactured by Daimler Buses — the same company that supplied the Toronto Transit Commission — the Ottawa vehicles employ batteries different from ones used in Toronto that have been failing and sidelining buses.

Director of transit services Alain Mercier said Toronto's buses use lead-

acid batteries, while Ottawa's will have lithium-ion batteries. "We knew the risk of lead-acid and we were looking for improved performance and a very low maintenance environment of a lithium-ion battery," he said.

Yesterday, the city unveiled two of 202 diesel-electric-hybrid buses that will be delivered over two years. Transit chair Alex Cullen said the \$650,000 buses would bring environmental and economic benefits, including a reduction in fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

The hybrids use up to 35 per cent less fuel, and the entire fleet is expected to reduce carbon emissions by over 5,000 tonnes annually.

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**WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY**

**Watch** MetroTube of the Day to see the Wazzup guys return to reflect on eight years under Bush

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These results are not official.



## City campaign avoids donation slow down so far

Perhaps realizing the importance of charity services during hard economic times, city residents appear to be stepping up in this year's local United Way campaign.

Yesterday, the United Way/Centraide Ottawa was at \$15.438 million — or 49.8 per cent — of its record \$31 million goal, before the halfway mark of the campaign.

If fundraising totals are any indication, the campaign is doing just fine as it hits its midway point to-

morrow, said Michael Allen, president of United Way/Centraide Ottawa.

"It doesn't take a lot for people in this community to have a compassionate sense toward those who are facing an even greater need in times of economic uncertainty," he said.

That said, the early part of the campaign is the easier part, he said. Part of the reason is because this year's government workplace campaign had a 10-day jump on previous years.

While United Way is do-

ing well so far, other Canadian charities may not be as fortunate and many may have to extend their fundraising deadlines, said Owen Charters, executive director of CanadaHelps, a website that fosters charitable online giving.

Research shows that in an economic downturn, charitable giving doesn't go down, it just stops rising, Charters said.

"I'm hoping Canadians realize that the need is always there," he said.

**TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA**



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Canadian Tire announced yesterday it will begin selling food and other "consumable" products at two experimental stores in Ontario, including one in Ottawa's suburb of Orleans. The store will open in mid-November. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Halloween haunts exist across Ottawa

CityScapes

Tracey Tong



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Over the last several weeks, I've been hearing strange noises in my

## apartment.

During a less creepy time of year, and at any other place, the sounds of creaking, running water and the scraping of chairs wouldn't be unusual in an apartment building. But the fact that it's Halloween and that I live on the top floor of my building makes me wonder if I'm not alone.

According to Haunted Walks director and founder Glen Shackleton, ghosts can be anywhere. And Ottawans don't have to go far for a scare.

"You hear stories of things that happened in the Ottawa Jail Hostel and the Museum of Nature," said the author of the recently penned Ghosts of Ottawa, a collection of su-

pernatural tales featuring local buildings.

Many don't think of Ottawa — a buttoned-up government town — as having a haunted past, said Shackleton. "But really, it has just as many ghost stories and haunted places as anywhere else.

"A place like the Bytown Museum, built in the 1920s, had a lot of people

living and dying in the building. There were a lot of tragedies here."

But buildings don't necessarily have to be old to be haunted, said Shackleton. "There was a house in Barrhaven where the radios would turn on even if they were unplugged, glasses in the cupboard were split in half and the burglar alarms would still be set," he said. "You can have a convincing experience even in a modern townhouse."

He's had his share of those. One Halloween, Shackleton was working as a doorman at the Ottawa Jail during the tours when he heard three heavy knocks on the door.

"I opened the door a crack and the group on the other side of the door said they didn't do it," he said. "They looked at me with eyes as big as dinner plates."

Jail staffer Michelle Dennis has reported hearing "strange scratching and shuffling noises" coming from the cells. She's also seen cell doors swing open for no reason.

Although some of the obvious stories are at the jail, the Bytown Museum is one of the most underrated places to go if you're looking for a brush with the afterlife. Many people have separately reported hearing the sound of footsteps behind them as they walk up the stairs inside the museum.

"They turn around and there's no one there, but the footsteps will continue for a few more seconds," said Shackleton.

"Even if they haven't made their minds up about whether they believe, everyone has a side that's curious about this kind of thing. And people enjoy getting a little bit scared this time of year."

After all these years, Shackleton admitted he's not immune.

"The ghosts aren't necessarily unfriendly ghosts, but it doesn't make a difference," he said.

"If something happens that you can't explain, it's always scary."

Metro Ottawa's Tracey Tong is an award-winning reporter. Her CityScapes column appears every Wednesday.

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Israel's popular Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni is being wooed by a Quebec admirer who sent her a diamond ring this week. Livni, a married mother of two, instructed her staff to return the ring to Laurent Bélanger and thank him. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

# Canada



## Page avoids jail time

Steven Page, left, lead singer of the Barenaked Ladies, will not go to jail on charges of drug possession, so long as he stays drug-free for six months and seeks substance abuse treatment, a Fayetteville, N.Y., judge said yesterday. The 38-year-old Page and two women were arrested in July after police found cocaine in a Fayetteville apartment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## McKenna says he won't run for Grit leadership

**REBUILDING** Frank McKenna doesn't want to lead the federal Liberals, saying the job of rebuilding the battered party was a bigger job that he was ready to take on.

McKenna ended days of speculation with an official announcement yesterday that he would not be a contender to replace Stéphane Dion, who will step down after leading the party to its worst election result in recent memory.

"Although I have been deeply moved by expressions of support for me from across the country, I have not been persuaded to change my long-standing resolve to exit public life for good," McKenna said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Emergency meeting

PM, premiers will gather to discuss economic crisis

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced an emergency meeting on the economy with Canada premiers on Nov. 10 yesterday, as federal and provincial governments struggle to stave off deficits.**

A meeting Monday in Toronto of federal and provincial treasurers and Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney would "lay the groundwork for the first ministers' meeting" a week later, Duncan said.

The first ministers' meeting will be the first of several gatherings on the economy involving Harper and the premiers as governments contend with dropping revenues and the growing fear of deficit financing.

While Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty posed for a photo yesterday, designed to give the impression they are hard at work, they refused to take questions on the economy or anything else.

For the Prime Minister, it was the continuation of a week-long silence. The PMO did not outline any

objectives for the meeting in a one-line press release announcing the date, and Harper's director of communications dampened expectations for the gathering.

"I don't think there's anyone who thinks there is a quick fix, one meeting solution to the economy," Kory Teneycke said.

TORSTAR NEW SERVICE



CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

## Liberals poll high in Quebec

**POLITICS** Quebec Premier Jean Charest, a leading opponent of separation from Canada, would win re-election in the French-speaking province if he triggers an election next week as widely expected, two polls suggested yesterday.

**opposed**

- 70 to 75 per cent of Quebecers oppose an election call just 19 months after the last one.

possibility of Quebec separatists forcing a third referendum on independence from Canada. Their first two attempts to break up Canada, in 1980 and 1995, failed. Separatists must be in power to be able to launch a referendum.

Re-election would push

REUTERS

## News in brief

**ECONOMY** The Canadian government balked at a request from the auto-parts industry for up to \$1 billion in emergency funds and loan guarantees yesterday, arguing it has already taken steps to improve financing conditions.

**COPYRIGHT** Ottawa has extended music royalties to the Internet in a move that will

encompass commercial TV and radio station websites, electronic gaming sites and online radio stations.

**MONEY** Ottawa's arbitrary and "paternalistic" rules on retirement funds are pushing many seniors to sell stocks at a loss and deplete their nest eggs, a prominent retirement group is warning. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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An international team of scientists wants to ban the catching of eight species of Atlantic Ocean sharks and put a strict limit on the catch of two others to prevent population crashes. Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overfishing because they reproduce and grow slowly. **REUTERS**

# World/Business

## McCain going out fighting

Republican nominee says he senses momentum building

**Republican presidential nominee John McCain said yesterday he sensed momentum behind him despite a daunting electoral picture in which Democrat Barack Obama holds a steady lead a week before Election Day.**

Hoping to dent Obama's armour, McCain and his No. 2 Sarah Palin ramped up criticism of Obama's tax plan, and the McCain campaign released a television ad that tried to raise voter doubts about Obama by pointing out that he said last May he did not believe Iran posed a serious threat.

McCain told Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity that he felt growing enthusiasm that reminds him of his comeback victory in the Republican primary,

"where we were running behind and we sensed this momentum building."

"I am convinced that seven days from now we will win in North Carolina," McCain told a crowded rally in Fayetteville, where U.S. military families and veterans have a strong presence.

McCain is in a neck-and-neck battle with Obama in the normally Republican state of North Carolina, emblematic of a gloomy outlook for Republicans in this year of financial turmoil.

Obama leads McCain by 49 per cent to 45 per cent among likely voters in a three-day national tracking poll by Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby, a slight dip from his five-point advantage Monday. **REUTERS**



U.S. Republican presidential nominee Senator John McCain and his wife Cindy greet supporters at a campaign rally in Hershey, Pa., yesterday.

## Guilty verdict in banker's death

**REVENGE** A Russian businessman was found guilty yesterday of ordering the murder of a top Russian central banker who led a campaign against money-laundering and corruption.

The state prosecutor said Alexei Frenkel had acted out of revenge when he or-

dered the killing of Andrei Kozlov, the 41-year-old deputy head of Russia's central bank who had revoked Frenkel's banks' licences.

Kozlov was shot dead in September 2006 as he left an amateur soccer match in Moscow. **REUTERS**

## News in brief

**SCANDAL** Chile's health minister resigned yesterday in the wake of an AIDS scandal. Maria Soledad Barria's ministry was rocked this month after it emerged that a hospital in northern Chile failed to notify dozens of patients that they had tested positive for HIV.

**TALIBAN TALKS** Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed yesterday to establish contacts jointly with Taliban militants through tribal leaders after two days of talks over how to end bloodshed in both countries. **REUTERS**

## Elvis Presley brings in a king-sized payday

**EARNINGS** Elvis Presley may have left the building several decades ago, but his earning power is far from diminished, with Forbes.com ranking him the top-earning dead celebrity for the second year in a row.

Presley pulled in \$52 million US in the past year, helped by increased visitors to his Graceland estate to commemorate the 30th anniversary of his death and new ventures like the Elvis Sirius Satellite Radio show, according to the website.

"While things might be topsy-turvy in the financial markets above ground, it's

## Top 5 dead earners

- 1 Elvis Presley \$52M
- 2 Charles Schulz \$33M
- 3 Heath Ledger \$20M
- 4 Albert Einstein \$18M
- 5 Aaron Spelling \$15M (all figures in U.S. dollars)

still a bull market in the boneyard," Forbes.com said.

Presley earned more between October 2007 and October 2008 than some of the music industry's biggest living pop stars like Justin Timberlake (\$44 million) and Madonna (\$40 million), Forbes.com said. **REUTERS**

## Business

## Microsoft unveils Vista replacement

**Microsoft Corp. is betting its next Windows operating system will be faster and easier to use and avoid the missteps of Windows Vista, which alienated many users of the software that powers 90 per cent of the world's PCs.**

Windows 7, which was previewed yesterday, is set to be introduced in a test version early next year with features including touch-screen technology and the ability to more easily personalize the system.

Vista was so heavily criti-

## Office on the web

• The next upgrade of Office business software from Microsoft Corp. will include a version that edits word-processing documents and spreadsheets inside a web browser, the software maker said yesterday.

cized due to poor compatibility with devices and slow start speeds that it became the target of an effective marketing campaign by rival Apple Inc. **REUTERS**

## In brief

**AUTOMOTIVE** General Motors Corp. has asked the U.S. government for roughly \$10 billion US in an unprecedented rescue package to support its

acquisition of Chrysler LLC from Cerberus Capital Management, sources familiar with the talks said. **REUTERS**

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Disgraced U.S. track star Marion Jones's appearance on today's Oprah Winfrey Show will be her first interview since she was released from prison after completing most of her six-month sentence for lying about steroid use. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Jones talks to Oprah

# Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

## Trade rumours begin to swirl

The Edmonton Oilers, slumping with four consecutive losses after an impressive 4-0 start, are desperately trying to trade a goaltender for a hard-nosed forward. Or two.

This is the word from two NHL sources, who told Metro the Oilers' Kevin Lowe and Steve Tambellini spent much of yesterday dangling their goalies as trade bait in discussions with rival club executives.

While the upstart Oilers have three NHL-calibre goalies — Dwayne Roloson, Mathieu Garon and Jeff Drouin-Deslauriers — it's become clear in recent games that they lack sufficient firepower.

After their 1-0 loss to the Boston Bruins Monday night, in fact, coach Craig MacTavish criticized the Oilers for being "too cute" and failing to produce an "aggressive enough attack."

He also said they haven't been "going to the tough ar-

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

eas to score goals."

Which explains their need for a hard-nosed forward. Or two.

It's been the exact opposite story with Alberta's other NHL squad, which went undefeated (3-0) last week. Calgary's hard-nosed forward, Jarome Iginla, scored five of the Flames' 11 goals.

Dallas Stars loudmouth Sean Avery recently claimed Iginla is too quiet off the ice for the NHL to market, but the Calgary captain is making profound statements on the ice.

And NHL fans hear his messages loudly and clearly. There's a poll on NHL.com, in fact, in which the majority

of participating fans suggest Iginla will score more than 50 goals this season.

So how did the Phillies react when MLB commissioner Bud Selig suspended their World Series game after the Tampa Bay Rays tied it at 2-2 after the fifth inning Monday night?

"That (expletive deleted) Selig," a Philadelphia pitcher said within earshot of a New Jersey reporter (who didn't identify him). "I wouldn't let him supervise one of my (bowel movements). He has no clue. Not one (expletive deleted) clue." The same reporter said an-

other Phillie said this about Selig: "He's a moron. How stupid can one person be?"

I'm sure Danyelle Sargent feels pretty stupid these days.

She's a sideline reporter for Fox TV and said this to new San Francisco 49ers coach Mike Singletary in a pre-game interview Sunday: "I heard that your mentor Bill Walsh was one of the first phone calls that you made when you found out that you had the job."

Walsh died in July 2007. And Sargent interrupted the coach's answer by saying this into her earpiece, "I'm sorry. Oh. I'm sorry. What, what did I, what was wrong?" Fox didn't air that portion of the interview, but the blunder still circulated around the United States and wound up being shown on several programs.

### Worth a thought

From an NBA scout, discussing new Raptor Jermaine O'Neal on Yahoo Sports: "He quit on Indiana. I guess if there's anything to worry about, it's that he could always do the same in Toronto."

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

## Game 5 still tied 2-2 ... Will finish tonight, maybe



Rain falls outside Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia yesterday. Game 5 of the World Series was suspended with the score tied 2-2 because of the weather Monday night, and was again delayed last night. The game will resume tonight, weather permitting. A Phillies win will give them their first World Series title in 28 years.

### SCOREBOARD

#### NHL

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### NORTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	OT	PTS
Buffalo	6	0	2	14
Montreal	6	1	1	12
Boston	3	2	3	9
Toronto	3	2	3	9
OTTAWA	3	5	1	7

##### ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	OT	PTS
N.Y. Rangers	9	2	1	18
Pittsburgh	5	2	1	12
New Jersey	5	2	1	18
Philadelphia	2	3	3	7
N.Y. Islanders	2	5	0	4

##### SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	OT	PTS
Washington	5	3	1	10
Carolina	4	2	2	10
Florida	4	4	0	8
Atlanta	2	4	2	6
Tampa Bay	2	3	3	6

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	OT	PTS
Detroit	6	1	1	13
St. Louis	5	3	0	10
Chicago	3	2	3	9
Nashville	4	4	1	9
Columbus	3	5	0	6

##### NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	OT	PTS
Minnesota	5	0	1	12
Colorado	5	3	0	10
Calgary	4	3	1	9
Edmonton	4	3	0	8
Vancouver	4	4	0	8

##### PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	OT	PTS
San Jose	7	2	0	14
Anaheim	4	5	0	8
Dallas	3	4	2	8
Los Angeles	3	4	0	6
Phoenix	3	4	0	6

#### LAST NIGHT'S GAMES

Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 2  
Washington 4 Nashville 3 (SO)  
Philadelphia 7 Atlanta 0  
Montreal 3, Carolina 2 (SO)  
Colorado at Calgary  
Boston at Vancouver  
Pittsburgh at San Jose



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# Travel



## Spying on London

When in London, try on a bit of the 007 lifestyle by hopping on a speedboat. Flying Fish Tours, which runs a thrillseeker's dream, will shoot you along the Thames on their Early Bird Scenic London tour — you'll pass the MI6 headquarters, shown at left, as well as many other London landmarks including Tower Bridge and the O2 arena. [VISITLONDON.COM](http://VISITLONDON.COM)

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# A traveller's truly spooky encounters

## The Travel Junkie

Julia Dimon

[juliadimon.com](http://juliadimon.com)

With Halloween a few days away, I've gotten to thinking about the supernatural realm. Here are a few of my favourite eerie experiences around the globe:

### Hoia-Baciu Forest, Romania

The Hoia-Baciu Forest, located a few kilometers outside of Cluj Napoca in Romania, is rumoured to be a hot bed of unexplained activity.

Dubbed the Bermuda Triangle of Transylvania, it first gained international attention in 1968, when biologist Alexandru Sift captured a photo of a disc-shaped UFO. Since then, UFOs, apparitions, luminous orbs, nocturnal lights and other unusual phenomena continue to be reported in this area. Trees that were normal a few years ago are now warped and gnarled, something that many say, is a clear sign of an apparition. People who spend extended periods of time in the forest claim to experience anxiety, insomnia, excess-



Bolivians come to the Mercado de las Brujas (the Witches Market) to buy items including dried llama fetuses.

sive thirst, nausea, vomiting and headaches.

### Witches Market, Bolivia

Located among the sidewalk vendors of Avenida Sagarnaga, the Mercado de las Brujas (the Witches Market) is where Bolivians come to buy all their ritualistic needs: amulets, herbs, ceramic charms and tools of the occult. There are no little green Martian

men here, but you will find a most unusual souvenir — dried llama fetuses. Bolivians bury them under the foundation of their new homes for good fortune.

Though Bolivia is primarily a Catholic country, the popular religion is a blend of Christian ideology and pre-Colombian indigenous rituals. To this day, blessings and burning cere-

monies are an important part of everyday Bolivian culture — witch or not.

### Honey Island Swamp, Louisiana

Not sure if it was the threat of poisonous snakes or the alligator infested waters, but there was definitely something mysterious about Louisiana's swamp lands. There have been eyewitness reports of

a seven-foot-tall Bigfoot-type creature that lives in

the area. They call it the Honey Island swamp monster. It has been described as: "half mammal, half reptile, all man-eater." Of course, no one can prove its existence, but there are still many locals who dare not enter the swamps alone.

### Nazca Lines, Peru

The Nazca Lines, found in the southwestern part of Peru, are massive triangles, trapezoids and animal figures carved in precise patterns on the desert floor. Flying over this UNESCO world heritage site, visitors will see the shape of a hummingbird, a condor, a whale, a monkey and, what some say looks like a googly-eyed astronaut. Despite years of scientific research, these "lines" remain a mystery. Astrological calendar, ancient art, a way to communicate with the Gods, evidence of alien activity? No one knows. The Nazca Lines have spawned many theories but few conclusions. Happy Halloween!

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; [juliadimon.com](http://juliadimon.com).

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# Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH:

## carguide

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA



## Caliber a bargain

LORNE DRURY  
for Metro Canada

**Performance and low price rarely go hand in hand when you're talking about cars these days.**

However, with Dodge's 2008 Caliber SRT4, you get 285 hp and 265 lb/ft of torque, starting at under the \$25K mark.

Talk about a bargain. Most performance versions of these compact sport sedans list at closer to the \$30K mark.

SRT stands for street and racing technology, and it is from Chrysler's performance division. They have a number of models currently on the market, including

the Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT8, Viper SRT10, Charger SRT8, and the Brampton-built Chrysler 300 SRT8 and Challenger SRT8.

With the Caliber SRT4, they have taken a standard-production Caliber, tweaked it with a turbocharger, high-performance suspension, huge brakes, and 19-inch wheels, and dressed it up with scoops and a rear spoiler, all for a starting price of \$24,995.

With these modifications, your normal Caliber economy hatch now goes from 0-96 km/h in just over six seconds. A quarter-mile time is estimated at 13.6 seconds.

In the SRT4, the 2.4-litre intercooled turbo inline four-



The hood scoop and wheels are the first clue that this isn't just any Dodge Caliber. It's the 2008 Caliber SRT4, with 285 hp and 265 lb/ft of torque.

cylinder engine is mated with a six-speed Getrag manual transmission. No automatic transmission is offered, so if a high-performance machine is your desire, be prepared to shift manually.

My tester included an SRT option package (\$925) and special SRT wheels (\$250). With a destination charge of \$1,200, the car was listed at \$27,470 — a great price for the performance this car provides.

However, if you hurry, you might be able to do better than that. I recently saw a loaded 2008 SRT4 advertised for \$21,795 as dealers start to clear out the 2008's to make room for incoming 2009 models.

In the SRT4, the four-wheel independent suspension is specially tuned and lowered. It features unique springs, front and rear anti-sway bars and twin-tube dampers. Traction control is standard.

On the braking side, Bosch dual piston calipers in a brilliant red colour are at the front along with huge 340-mm (13.4 inch) discs and functional cooling ducts. At the rear are 300-mm (11.8 inch) discs are on the rear.



The interior of the Caliber SRT4 is performance-oriented with a tach front and centre and a turbo-boost gauge to the left of the steering wheel.

To get the power to right places in this front-drive vehicle, the SRT4 has a specially engineered Electronic Stability Program (ESP) with Brake Lock Differential (BLD) technology to transfer torque to the drive tire with the most traction.

And as far as tires are concerned, 225/45R19 high-performance tires are standard on the SRT4, with 225/45R19 BSW performance tires available as an option.

Inside, the basic Caliber interior has been modified with special SRT4 embroidered front seats that are deeply bolstered and similar to those found on the

### 2008 Dodge Caliber SRT4

**Type:** Compact car  
**Price:** \$24,995 as tested  
**Engine:** 2.4-litre DOHC inline four-cylinder  
**HP:** 285

#### Highlights

- Powerful
- Affordable
- Eye-popping colours

#### \$100K Dodge Viper.

You also get a centre-mounted tach, 300 km/h speedometer, turbo boost gauge, bright aluminum pedals, and a leather-wrapped steering wheel (with audio controls) and shift knob. Also standard is air conditioning with the Chill Zone storage compartment near the glove box for keeping water and pop cans cool on hot summer days.

The outside has been dressed up with a functional hood scoop, a unique front fascia, fog lamps, a large rear spoiler and SRT badging. Four exterior colours are offered, including the eye-popping Inferno

Red Crystal Pearl featured on my tester.

While the base car starts at under \$25K, you could easily go much higher with options like the power sunroof, 13-speaker KICKER/SRTLivin Loud 522 watt sound system or the MusicGate Power sound system.

Performance is what makes the SRT4 attractive to a certain segment of the automotive market, yet fuel economy isn't half bad for this turbocharged model. The SRT4 is rated at 10.9L/100 km city (26 mpg) and 7.4L/100 km (38 mpg) highway.

From the cockpit, vision ahead on the highway is fairly good due to the vehicle's high stance. However, the deep dashboard makes it difficult to judge just where the car's front end begins, making parking a bit of a chore.

Minor quibbles aside, I can't think of another car on the market that offers the same combination of power and performance at a price under \$25K. The tuner crowd should be in love with this car.

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Capable of towing 6,000 lbs., 2009 Chrysler Aspen and Dodge Durango hybrid

vehicles deliver seamless, dependable power and performance on demand in an efficient package.

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# RX-8 40 years in making

**JIM ROBINSON**  
for Metro Canada

**Winkle, winkle little Wankel/How I wonder if you crank'll, Torque enough to turn itself, Or will you wind up on the shelf.**

That little poem was penned by the John Dinkel, a 20-year veteran with Road & Track magazine in the 1970s and, one of the great automotive writers of all time.

His poem kicked off a feature on the then new Wankel rotary engine that German carmaker NSU (now part of Audi) was trying to make viable.

The problem was Dr. Felix Wankel invented it to power torpedoes for German U-Boats. It was never supposed to last longer than a few minutes so trying to create a permanent rotor seal was not an issue.

NSU could not make it work, as hard as they tried. Nor could General Motors, Daimler-Benz, Rolls-Royce and Citroën.

But the little known

Mazda company in Japan gave it a go. After literally thousands of substances were tried, including horsehair, they got the rotor to seal at the apexes for an acceptably long period.

Then on May 30, 1967, Mazda launched the world's first twin-rotor engine car, the Mazda Cosmo Sport.

The 2009 Mazda RX-8 marks 40 years of the rotary and the R3 model is equipped to the point that there are no options available, but it does have more than a dozen extras never before offered on a RX-8.

Power is a twin-chamber

rotary with the equivalent of 1.3-litres displacement. The R3 version is slightly more powerful at 238 hp and 159 lb/ft of torque on premium fuel. Fuel consumption is listed at 12.8/9.2L/100 km city/highway. There is only one transmission, a six-speed manual derived from the one used in the MX-5 Miata.

The new RX-8 R3 also features variable red-zone technology which limits revs at a cold start to protect the engine and allows full use of the car's uniquely broad 9,000rpm rev-band when it is fully warmed.

The electric power steering is also light, a bit too light for me, but nonetheless quick and effective without that ratchet feeling so common in first generation electric steering boxes.

Besides the rotary engine, the RX-8 is unique in having demi-doors to the back seat often called suicide doors. They are like French doors when opened. The backseat is more decorative than useable, but you can fit two small fry back there.

Base price of the 2009 RX-8 is \$37,295 but the R3 package bumps that to \$40,780.

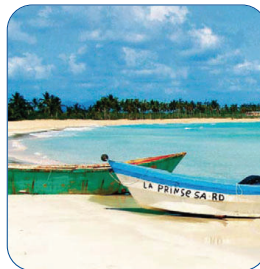
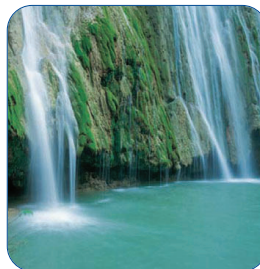


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\*Cash purchase price reflects discounts only available with cash purchase price offer and not available for purchase financing or lease offers. Freight (\$1225), licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, duties and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. See newspaper or your participating dealer for details. <sup>1</sup>When equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission, estimated 2009 ratings, based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. <sup>2</sup>Equivalent Chevrolet Aveo model tested. US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program ([www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov)). <sup>3</sup>Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.



Sylvester Stallone is plotting to bring grizzled Vietnam veteran John Rambo back for a fifth installment of the action-movie franchise. "Rambo hopefully will be back. We've just got to give you guys a story that's worthwhile," Stallone said. **IMDB.COM**

# Entertainment

## No to Hairspray

John Travolta has decided not to reprise his role as Edna Turnblad in a sequel to movie musical Hairspray. "I think once is enough. I did it and I did it well, but I'm not a big sequel guy." **IMDB.COM**



## Led Zeppelin could tour minus Plant

### MUSIC

British rockers Led Zeppelin are looking at the possibility of touring and recording without front man Robert Plant, who has resisted pressure to reunite with his former bandmates, the BBC reported.

The band, one of the most influential in rock music, briefly regrouped for a charity concert in London in December, 2007.

Guitarist Jimmy Page and bassist/instrumentalist John Paul Jones are keen to return to the stage, as is drummer Jason Bonham, the son of original member John, who died in 1980.

REUTERS



Plant

# Remaking horror classics

PHIL BROWN  
for Metro Canada

Even though I'm no longer able to get pillowcases full of free candy simply for putting on a sweaty latex mask, I still love Halloween. After all, it's the only time of the year when it's acceptable to watch the most disturbing and terrifying movies ever made.

Unfortunately, in recent years, many horror-film lovers have found themselves bored with the tales of terror that have been filling the multiplexes.

Normally, audiences are limited to the latest and lamest Saw sequel, the hodgepoding of past horror films into new releases — like The Haunting of Molly Hartley, in theatres



The Swedish horror flick Let the Right One In opens in select Canadian theatres on Friday, but Hollywood is already planning a remake.

Friday — and, of course, remakes of scary-movie classics.

It's understandable why

remakes are being cranked out — the movies have a built-in audience thanks to brand loyalty — but that doesn't change the fact that all the Texas Chainsaw Massacre and Grudge Xeroxes are tainting the memory of the originals.

Here are some particularly frustrating remakes coming to screens in the months ahead:

• **Friday the 13th (February 2009):** Hockey-mask connoisseur Jason Voorhees has already killed horny teens in

eleven films, yet he is being resurrected to crank out a remake. I can't help but wonder how Jason will find new and interesting ways to slaughter talent-starved young actors when he already has more than 100 kills under his belt.

• **Last House On the Left (March 2009):** It seems like Wes Craven's entire back catalogue is in development for "re-imagining." The most surprising of these projects has to be Last House On the Left, a 1972 rape-revenge horror

that still can't be shown uncut in Britain. Despite the endless controversy, the film is about to be re-dressed for new audiences.

• **A Nightmare On Elm Street (2010):** Craven's 1984 horror flick became an instant classic for its brilliant conceit of a murderer who hunts teens in their dreams. Freddy quickly became a cultural icon, with countless sequels. There's no denying that the success of the film came down to two major players: Craven and star Robert Englund. Neither is involved in the remake. With any luck, audiences won't be either.

• **Let the Right One In (TBA):** Tomas Alfredson's brilliant teenage-vampire/coming-of-age movie hits Canadian theatres on Friday, but a Hollywood remake is already underway with Cloverfield director Matt Reeves in charge. One of the most original and surprisingly touching horror movies in years, it's difficult to imagine a remake capturing the spirit of the original. I predict Dakota Fanning will be miscast in the lead role — and two hours of sleeping in the theatre for me.

## The Waking Eyes LIVE Nov. 5th at The Live Lounge!



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No purchase necessary. Must be 19 years of age to enter. Prizes are not redeemable for cash. Odds of winning vary with the number of entries received. Rules available upon request.

## Manson victim subject of doc

**MOVIES** Jay Sebring, the Hollywood hairstylist murdered by Charles Manson's followers in 1969, will be the subject of a documentary directed by his nephew.

Anthony DiMaria hopes to have the project released in 2009. It will include interviews with Sebring's protegee, Joe Torrenueva, and Debra Tate, younger sister of actress Sharon Tate.

## Muhammad film in the works

**MOVIES** A movie drama about the life of the Prophet Muhammad is to go into production soon, and will be only the second English-language film of its kind ever made.

The Messenger of Peace will be a remake of Moustapha Akkad's The Message, a 1977 Hollywood classic starring Anthony Quinn.

REUTERS

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**CBS pulls the Ex List**

Just call it the ex-Ex List. CBS is pulling the struggling freshman drama off its schedule, effective immediately. Ex List star Elizabeth Reaser, right. **EW.COM**



# Struggling shows hang on

**IntelleVision**



**YOU READ IT HERE FIRST:** The poor economy and the lingering effects of the Hollywood writers' strike are giving struggling shows a second chance they might otherwise not have gotten, according to a story by the Hollywood Reporter.

Of course, you already knew that if you'd read this column last week (nyah nyah nyah), but it's one of those factoids of glaring obviousness, so I'll give them a pass this time. "No execs would talk on the record," said the Reporter, which means bingo, bullseye and boo-yah in Hollywood calculus, and the story went on to elaborate that "the economic crisis, combined with the cost of marketing a new series, the lack of new programming invento-



The state of the economy and the effects of the writers' strike, has given shows like Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles a second chance.

ry because of the WGA strike and the anticipated difficulty of locking down new advertiser commitments, has networks inclined to play it safe."

The three shows highlighted by the story — NBC's Knight Rider, ABC's Private Practice and Fox's Terminator: The Sarah Con-

nor Chronicles — have all been underperforming in ratings, and would have been cut loose by their networks during any sort of healthy TV season, especially Fox, whose impatience with new shows that fail to deliver is as furious as a British nanny toilet-training a 10-year-old.

"Networks are loath to exit the fall without at least one series to tout as a success," the Reporter notes. "Plus, the writers strike ... has delayed quality mid-season replacements. And with ratings declining overall because of increasing DVR penetration and audience erosion to cable net-

works and the Internet, the bar for success keeps being lowered."

All you have to do is throw in an Old Testament plague that only targets executives at the big four networks, and you've got something like a perfect storm of media extinction, as far as I can see.

Back when we were being treated to the spectacle of millionaire writer/actor/producer types walking the picket lines and pretending they were coal miners striking to get a pay raise that would let them

pay for their coffin after they die from black lung, there was some speculation that the writers' strike would turbocharge the march to

extinction for network broadcast television. Hollywood optimists imagined that it would come in the shape of creatively frustrated writers and their creative allies turning to the Internet to create their own content delivery systems. That was too much like work for Hollywood's bohemian guilds, but the death march picked up the pace nonetheless, and now it looks like the first of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse has arrived, in the deceiving form of KITT the Wonder Car.

frustrated writers and their creative allies turning to the Internet to create their own content delivery systems. That was too much like work for Hollywood's bohemian guilds, but the death march picked up the pace nonetheless, and now it looks like the first of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse has arrived, in the deceiving form of KITT the Wonder Car.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

## Brody on the run in The Courier role

**FILM** Adrien Brody will be chased by cops and crime bosses as the title character in The Courier.

**Brody**

The action tale centres on a daredevil courier trying to deliver a briefcase to an underworld figure who can't be found. Filming is scheduled to begin next January in Louisiana and Las Vegas.

Russell Mulcahy (Resident Evil: Extinction) will direct the Arclight Films project.

**REUTERS**

## In brief

**INDIE DRAMA** Weeds star Mary-Louise Parker will begin a May/December romance with Michael Douglas in Solitary, an indie drama co-starring Susan Sarandon, Danny DeVito and Jenna Fischer. The shoot is set to begin next month in New York.

**REUTERS**

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](http://metronews.ca/movies)

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OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
265	353	2	TVO	Meerkat Manor (N)	The Agenda With Steve Palkin	The Fixer (Part 5 of 6) (N)	Human Edge "Operation Filmmaker"					
211	331	3	GYT	ET Canada	Bones	NCIS: Murder 2.0 (N)	The Guard "The Hold"					News (N)
-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	Le Match des étoiles (SC)	M pour musique (HDTV) (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)					La Zone
209	342	6	CHRO	Robson Arms	America's Next Top Model (N)	Private Practice (N)	(10:01) Dirty Sexy Money					News (N)
196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada	Big Bang Th	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)					News (N)
208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: The National				The Hour
-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Barack Obama	Deal or No Deal	(HDTV) (N)				News (N)
117	713	10	TVA	Occupation	Poule-œufs or	Destinées (HDTV) (SC)	Les Soeurs Elliot (HDTV) (SC)					TVA 22 heures (10:45) Denis Lévesque
-	-	11	GS	Chemin du golf	Loft Story	Volcan à New York (2006, Action)	Costas Mandylor (SC)					Cent dix pour cent (SC)
137	763	12	TFO	Panorama	Les Citadins du rebu global	Le Rivage des murmures (2004, Drama)	Beatriz Batarda					Loft Story
-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)	Barack Obama	Old Christine	Criminal Minds (N)					CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)
216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case	News (N)	News (N)	Two/Half Men					King
214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU	Secret Life of American Teen	Stylista "Hidden Gems"	Lipstick Jungle (N)					News (N)
115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)	The Simpsons					King of the Hill
218	345	18	ET	The Insider (N)	ET News	Name is Earl	Deal or No Deal	(HDTV) (N)				Scream: Hollywood Story
-	351	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Pushing Daisies (N)	Private Practice (N)					(10:01) Dirty Sexy Money
512	396	24	CPAC	(4) Dossier public	À la une	Michael Cohen Show	100 Huntley Street					Life Today
651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Barack Obama	MLB Baseball World Series Game 6 - Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays					This Is Day
-	365	26	FOX	Seinfeld	Whiz Quiz	Ride Along the Lincoln	Great Performances (HDTV) (N)					Folklore
-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Whiz Quiz	So You Think You Can Dance Canada	Big Bang Th					CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)
502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National					Monarchy: The Royal Family
500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)					National
406	417	27	net	SportsNet. Com	MLB Pregame	MLB Baseball World Series Game 6 - Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays	(Live)					RDI en direct sur l'économie
126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Le Téléjournal	Le Téléjournal (SC)	(HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)
400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at New Jersey Devils	(Live)	Score Tonight					Hockey Talk
410	403	32	SCR	NBA Basketball	Toronto Raptors at Philadelphia 76ers (Live)	Ed's Up	Adventures					Word Travels
411	457	56	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	The Amazing Race 13	Ed's Up					Globe Guides
417	406	59	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder					Pinks
554	544	48	TCL	Grim Adv	Ghosts-Scoboy	Ghosts-Scoboy	Gleen					Wrecked
557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie					Robot Chicken
551	542	65	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Sabrina-Witch	Sabrina-Witch					Daughter-Devil
570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	Popagenda	Back In	Listed					Cory in House
615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Dispo Day"	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter					Zack & Cody
628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: NY "Raising Shane"	CSI: NY "Silent Night"	UFC Unleashed	The Ultimate Fighter (N)					Mystery Hnt.
521	560	34	TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8	Jon & Kate					Adrenaline Proj
145	761	35	TVS	Toute une histoire	Le Courage d'aimer	Le Courage d'aimer	Premier voy					Revival
116	521	39	SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County	Billable Hours					Party of Five
620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives	Berkeley	Bravo/Videos	Wingfield					Parking Wars
520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)	Cash Cab (N)	Factory Made	Monster Moves (N)					Ult. Fighter
575	583	43	CMT	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.					Jon & Kate
601	562	45	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Last 10	Bulging Brides					Journal TV5
625	548	46	COM	Air Force	Just for Laughs	Underworld ** (2003, Horror)	Kate Beckinsale, Scott Speedman					House </td
524	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Mansions	The Stagers					Starter Wife (HDTV) (N)
600	564	48	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine	Battlestar Galactica					Arts & Minds
627	528	50	S&C	Lost "... And Found"	MTV News	Busted	After					The Achievers
581	566	53	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs					Mayday
618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210	Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy					Hope & Faith
522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "The Weak Link"	Cities of the Underworld	Le Pouvair caché (HDTV)	Université					Hope & Faith
129	773	60	CD	Biographies	Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May					Real Housewives of NYC
261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote	Grocery	Mixed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny					Comedy Inc.
602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Sounds Like Motown	APT National News: Contact					RENO 911! (N)
269	350	70	APTN	Canadian Geographic	TMZ (N)	etalk	Paris Hilton's My New BFF					Daily Show
621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	Restaurant Makeover	Iron Chef America	Dinner Imposs.					Family Guy
603	561	95	FN	The Main	Chef at Home							Family Guy

## critics' corner

**Sophie** Now, see, this is why one should never, ever burn one's bridges, especially in showbiz. A certain casting director was on the receiving end of some harsh treatment from Estelle (Sara Botsford) years ago. Now guess who needs work and has to make nice with said casting director. Judith (Mimi Kuziyk) has a new roommate: Ophelia (Chantelle Chung). Natalie Brown also stars in the new episode "The Casting Couch." 8:30 PM on 3 CBC



**Private Practice** Who's in charge here? You'll be surprised at the outcome of an election to determine who runs the practice — and so will the candidates, Sam and Naomi (Taye Diggs, Audra McDonald). Addison (Kate Walsh) treats an Afghan girl who wants to keep her past a secret. Speaking of secrets, Cooper's (Paul Adelstein) personal life catches up with him in the new episode "Past Tense." 9 PM on 20 ABC 6 SHRO



Annabeth Gish of Showtime's *Brotherhood* and husband Wade Allen welcomed their second child, son Enzo Edward Allen. Enzo was born Saturday night in Rhode Island and weighed 7 lbs. **PEOPLE.COM**

## Celebrity Buzz

# Friends fret over Lindsay's weight

**PEOPLE** Lindsay Lohan has sparked concerns for her health after losing 14 lbs, [famefirst.co.uk](http://famefirst.co.uk) reports.

The actress, who denied rumours she was suffering from an eating disorder after dropping to a Size 0 three years ago, has worried pals who have seen her Size 10 to 12 frame reduced to a tiny Size 6.

"She is thinner than ever and we are concerned she is taking it too far," a source told Britain's *Star* magazine. "Lindsay's weight has always fluctuated, but since falling

in love with Samantha Ronson, who is naturally very slim, Lindsay seems desperate to lose more weight."

Lohan has reportedly insisted she has a healthy diet, which includes "drinking buckets of green tea" and "eating fresh fruit smoothies with aloe vera, sushi, pasta salad, and lots of green vegetables such as broccoli and spinach."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES/PHOTOS

## Olsen a 'wreck' over paparazzi

**PRESS** Ashley Olsen has lashed out at the paparazzi, blaming aggressive photographers for turning her into a nervous "wreck," [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

The 22-year-old actress is fed up with flashbulbs because her small stature makes it difficult to escape snappers desperate to take her picture.

"Honestly, I'm

a wreck, every time I see a camera, I'm a wreck," she tells the *New York Times*.

"I don't tend to react as though, 'I have to do this, it's my job.' I am reacting as a woman who is five foot one whose space is being invaded by a bunch of men whose aggression I can literally feel."

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# Cops crash Kate's bash

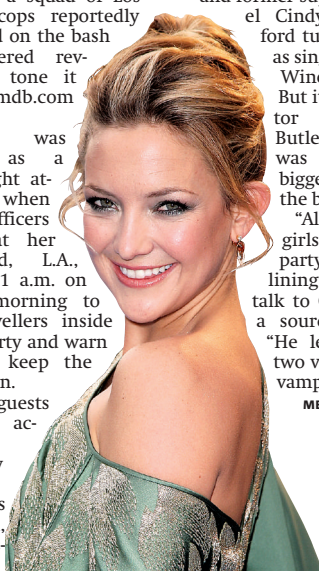
**HALLOWEEN** Actress Kate Hudson's Halloween party attracted some unusual guests — a squad of Los Angeles cops reportedly descended on the bash and ordered revellers to tone it down, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

Hudson was dressed as a 1960s flight attendant when LAPD officers arrived at her Brentwood, L.A., home at 1 a.m. on Sunday morning to move revellers inside the property and warn them to keep the noise down.

Party guests included actress Courteney Cox, dressed as a witch, and husband David Arquette as a warlock. Actress Winona Ryder went as a mouse, and former supermodel Cindy Crawford turned up as singer Amy Winehouse.

But it was actor Gerard Butler who was the biggest hit at the bash. "All the girls at the party were lining up to talk to Gerard," a source says. "He left with two very sexy vampires."

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## Jackson's praise stuns Zac

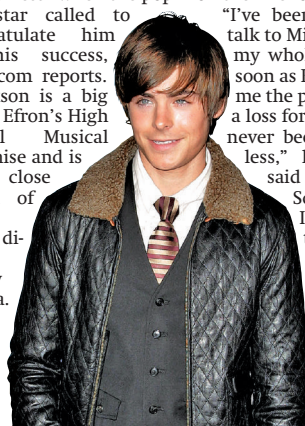
**FAME** Actor Zac Efron was overwhelmed to find out Michael Jackson is a fan of his work, and was left "speechless" when the pop superstar called to congratulate him on his success, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

Jackson is a big fan of Efron's *High School Musical* franchise and is a close friend of the films' director Kenny Ortega.

Efron admits he was delighted when Ortega handed him his cellphone and told him that Jackson was on the line for him.

"I've been wanting to talk to Michael Jackson my whole life, but as soon as Kenny handed me the phone, I was at a loss for words. I have never been so speechless," he says. "He said he loves *High School Musical*. It was motivation for us, and encouragement."

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## celebrity briefs

### Hayden urges fans on dolphin issue

**ACTIVISM** Animal-rights activist Hayden Panettiere has appealed to fans in an online video message to support a charity campaigning against commercial whaling, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

The actress hit headlines last year when she joined animal-rights activists in a protest against the slaughtering of dolphins in the historic whaling town of Taiji, Japan.

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## celebrity briefs

### Elle denies ties with ex-convict

**RUMOUR** Supermodel Elle MacPherson has denied reports she is in a relationship with convicted drug smuggler Brian Burgess, and has threatened legal action if the press speculation continues, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

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## FameThrower

### Joe O'Neill

Joe's take on celebrities



Thank goodness **Ben Affleck** is opening up about his ill-fated engagement to "I'm still, I'm still" **Jennifer Lopez**. Seems that their failure to marry can be blamed on media accessibility. Thanks for clearing that up, Ben. It's not that you were a pair of shallow, fame-grubbing quasis whose publicists cooked up a brilliant scheme to dominate magazine covers for two years, and coined the celeb portmanteau, **Bennifer**, against which all others would be judged. It's just that you were so in love, and so excited, that you shared too much of yourselves. Sort of like **Romeo and Juliet**, but without the double-suicide I had my heart set on. But by making this public pronouncement about something that may as well have happened during the Napoleonic Wars, as far as the added attention spans of the celebrity-obsessed are concerned, Ben shows every indication that he is suffering from "Dumpee's Remorse."

I don't know if Affleck has considered how unwise it is to wax nostalgic about lost loves when your present wife is pregnant. When said wife happens to be the powerfully built **Jennifer Garner**, who kicked butt on *Alias*, that's just plain reckless.

NEWSDESK@METRONWS.CA

## Affleck explains 'Bennifer' saga

**PEOPLE** Actor Ben Affleck has opened up about his high-profile engagement to Jennifer Lopez, insisting the pair was "too accessible" to the media, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

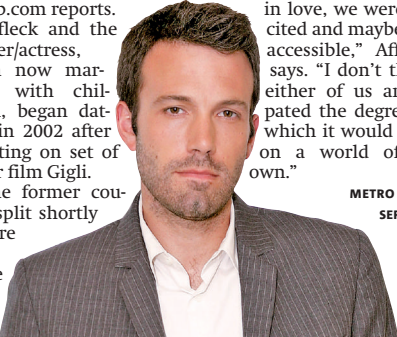
Affleck and the singer/actress, both now married with children, began dating in 2002 after meeting on set of their film *Gigli*.

The former couple split shortly before they were due to

wed in September 2004, marking the end of a media circus that surrounded their relationship.

"I think Jen and I made a mistake in that we fell in love, we were excited and maybe too accessible," Affleck says. "I don't think either of us anticipated the degree to which it would take on a world of its own."

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## Swank can't wait to fly solo

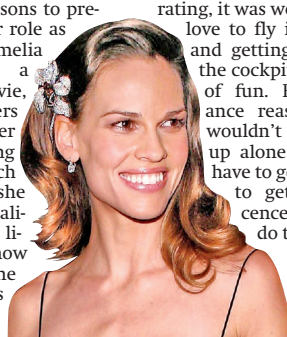
**PEOPLE** Hilary Swank is preparing to fly solo for the first time in order to land her pilot's licence, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

The actress took to the skies for lessons to prepare for her role as aviator Amelia Earhart in a new movie, but insurers banned her from flying alone, which meant she couldn't qualify for a licence. But now that the movie has wrapped,

she can't wait to get back in the pilot's seat.

"The fun part of my job is that I get to dive into the shoes of other people," Swank says. "It was exhilarating, it was wonderful. I love to fly in general and getting there in the cockpit was a lot of fun. For insurance reasons they wouldn't let me go up alone, and you have to go up alone to get your licence. But I will do that."

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## Ramsay dreams of Dubai

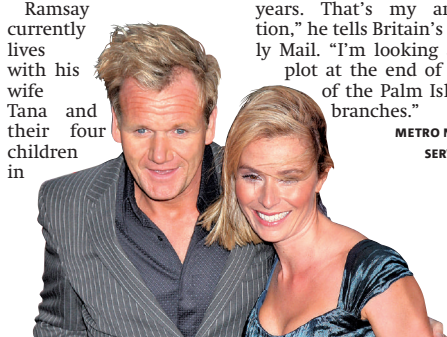
**PEOPLE** Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay has fired up plans to move from his London home in the next five years — to the city of Dubai, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

Ramsay currently lives with his wife Tana and their four children in

the British capital, but he is determined to transfer to the United Arab Emirates.

"I'm going to move to Dubai full-time in five years. That's my ambition," he tells Britain's *Daily Mail*. "I'm looking at a plot at the end of one of the Palm Island branches."

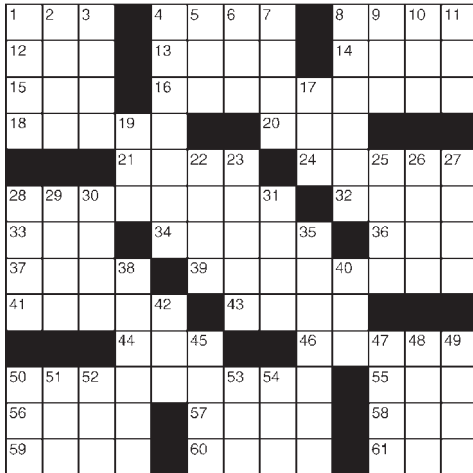
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## Take Five



### Crossword across

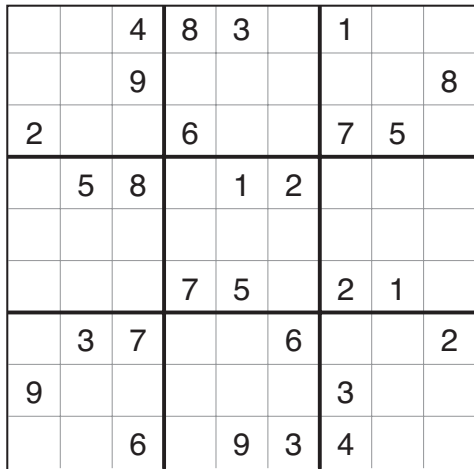
- 1 Bishopric  
4 Mop the deck  
8 First murderer  
12 Actress Mendes  
13 London gallery  
14 Anger  
15 Fleur-de-  
16 Plated critter  
18 Pamphlet  
20 Weir  
21 Coagulate  
24 Summertime vacation site  
28 Tall cupboards  
32 Pale  
33 — constrictor  
34 Spanish hors d'oeuvres  
36 Kennedy or Danson  
37 "Hairy one" of the Bible  
39 Sanction by ruling  
41 Plasma-like fluid  
43 George of "CSI"  
44 Spelling contest  
46 Blake of jazz  
50 Famous  
55 Depressed  
56 Vicinity  
57 Malaria symptom  
58 Corroded  
59 1/746 horsepower  
60 Unruly groups  
61 Owns

### Crossword down

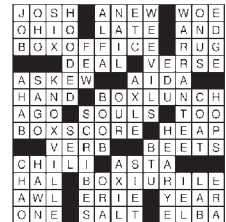
- 1 Ego  
2 Maleficence  
3 Simple  
4 Inspiring romance, maybe  
5 Gen. Sherman called it hell  
6 \$ dispenser  
7 Rosary component  
8 Black Sea peninsula  
9 Have a bug  
10 "— be darned!"  
11 Ultramodernist  
17 Apply lightly  
19 Green prefix  
22 Exam format  
23 Reservation residence  
25 Italian wine region  
26 At the home of (Fr.)  
27 Jekyll's bad side  
28 8-Across' victim  
29 Optimistic  
30 Sir's counter-part  
31 Long story  
35 1979 song by Robert John  
38 Cheerful  
40 Baton Rouge sch.  
42 Coop dweller  
45 Dutch cheese  
47 Mediocre  
48 Greek vowel  
49 Rams fans?  
50 Matlock's field  
51 Mound stat  
52 Obtain  
53 In days past  
54 Massage

### Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



Find today's answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

### SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 min ..... Genius  
13-17 min ..... Scholar  
17-21 min ..... Smart  
21-25 min ..... Not bad  
25+ min ..... Keep practising

### Recipe of the day



### Lamb Kebabs with Greek Salad

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) extra virgin olive oil  
2 large garlic cloves, crushed  
juice of 1/2 lemon  
1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh oregano  
1 (16 oz / 450 g) boneless leg of lamb, trimmed of visible fat and diced 2 cm thick  
4 whole-wheat pita breads, cut into triangles, to serve  
Greek-style yogurt to serve (optional)  
**GREEK-STYLE SALAD:**  
6 tomatoes, thickly sliced  
1 red onion, finely chopped  
1 baby or small white cabbage, about 220 g, core removed and thinly shredded  
5 tbsp (75 mL) chopped fresh mint  
1/4 cucumber, halved and thinly sliced  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
1 tbsp (15 mL) extra virgin olive oil

#### METHOD:

- Preheat the broiler or heat a ridged cast-iron grill pan. Put olive oil, garlic, lemon juice and oregano in a bowl and stir to combine. Add lamb and turn until well coated. Thread the cubes onto 4 skewers.
- Cook lamb under the broiler or in the pan for about 7-8 minutes or until tender, turning frequently. Toward the end of cooking, warm pita bread under the broiler.
- Place all salad ingredients in a bowl. Toss gently. Serve kebabs with salad, pita bread and yogurt, if using.

#### SERVES 4



### Horoscopes

#### ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

The status quo changes when someone fails to arrive. A partnership needs to be resumed. An executive wants to make a public proposal.

#### LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

You'll have to come to the rescue of a friend. Fight against flamboyance in a brainstorming session. A precious friend has faith in your instincts.

#### TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

A detached associate loses out due to negligence. You'll witness a change of attitude. A radiant lover will win over the boss.

#### SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

A keen colleague has the courage to object. Affection restores a woman's self-assurance. Someone fantasizes about excellent money ideas.

#### GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

Don't make too much noise. You'll be forced to interpret some frosty behaviour. Wealth will be revealed after a melt-down occurs.

#### SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

An agile ally has lots of answers. A smart person involves you in an uncertain situation. Good conduct may be essential in the long run.

#### CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

An authorization comes through in vain. A snob says scathing things and goes away. A flirtation escalates and tempting invitations arrive.

#### CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

An ignoramus isn't interested in being tactful. A trip is made to give satisfaction. The wrecking of hopeful wishes is heard of at work.

#### LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

Be sincere when explaining problems. Don't push anyone around in order to find happiness. Someone's quirks can be effectively sidestepped.

#### AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Incoming bills will be less than you expected. An unforeseen invitation will be received. An associate's apathy defies comprehension.

#### VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

A charming female finally meets her match. A phone call will lead to a waste of energy. Personal boundaries should be respected.

#### PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

A compliment is not what it seems. Insecurity brings down a new friend. A tantrum is caused when somebody is behaving respectfully.

### WORDY GURDY®

1. Afternoon snooze headwear (1)  
2. Confiscate hive insects (1)  
3. Temperamental Liza mom Garland (2)  
4. Soda-sipping tube imperfection (1)  
5. Govt. department's new French money (2)  
6. Armed mugging in a small truck (2)  
7. Slangily, Wild West surgeon's mandibles (2)
- ANSWERS: 1. NAP CAP 2. SEIZED DEBS 3. MOODY LIZZY 4. STRAW PLAW 5. PIRATE'S PIRROS 6. PIRATE'S PIRROS 7. SAWMANS JAWMANS





